

Remarks

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated November 29, 2007 states that the amendment submitted on September 19, 2007 is considered non-compliant for failure to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121. Prior to this amendment, claims 1-45 were pending in this application, of which claims 1-10 and 22-45 are withdrawn. By this amendment, claim 14 is amended to correct matters of form, claims 34-45 are canceled, and new claims 46-54 are added. New claims 46-54 correspond to original claims 37-45 and are identical to the claims submitted with the original filing, but for renumbering and the correction of typographical errors in original claims 37, 44, and 45 (new claims 46, 53, and 54, respectively). Original claims 34-36 have not been re-entered in any form; these claims were missing from the original claim listing in the application submitted on September 9, 2004. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-33 and 46-54 are pending, of which claims 1-10 and 22-33 are withdrawn. It is expected that the Examiner will withdraw new claims 46-54 as these claims are directed to unelected subject matter (Examiner's Groups VI and VII). Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c). No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicants note that the pending Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment indicates that the amendment submitted on September 19, 2007 is also considered non-compliant because "5. Other (e.g., the amendment is unsigned or not signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4): see attachment." Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection and note that the September 19, 2007 amendment, submitted via the Electronic Filing System (EFS), was signed using Applicants' representative's S-signature inserted between forward slash marks and included Applicants' representative's registration number immediately below the S-signature, fully in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4. Moreover, Applicants note that the attachment to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment fails to elaborate as to why the amendment submitted on September 19, 2007 does not meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.4. In light of the above discussion, Applicants believe that the amendment submitted on September 19, 2007 is in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4. However, if the Examiner believes that the amendment still fails to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.4, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' representative prior to issuance of another Office action to discuss this issue.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to this effect is requested. If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite allowance of the claims, please telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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